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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/933,551	08/20/2001	Marcus J. laGrone	5671.026	6753

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EXAMINER

CONNOLLY, PATRICK J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2877

DATE MAILED: 03/13/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/933,551

Applicant(s)

LAGRONE, MARCUS J.

Examiner

Patrick J Connolly

Art Unit

2877

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 August 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

The examiner has considered the information disclosure statement submitted by the applicant, however since it contains no references to prior art, it is not considered relevant to the prosecution of the application.

Drawings

Figures 1, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b, 4a, 4b, and 4c should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,165,183 to Hall et al. (hereafter Hall).

As to claims 1 and 2, the applicant's admitted prior art of Figures 2b and 3b teach a delay element in an interferometer, the delay element consisting of four mirrors that delay the beam path within the plane of the rest of the interferometer beams. Both the plane of the beam and number of mirrors used to execute the beam delay are arbitrary, as they do not exhibit particular properties in any particular configuration. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in

the art at the time of invention to choose any path configuration. Further it would be obvious to include such a delay element in the apparatus of Hall, for example in place of mirror 220 in Figure 6).

As to claim 3, Hall teaches an interferometer including (see Figure 6) a beam splitter (10) and steering mirrors (12,14,220). While Hall does not teach a scanning mirror with opposing planar faces, he does teach a carriage with two corner cube reflectors (16,18,20). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to substitute a planar scanning mirror for the carriage assembly of Hall, as they are functionally equivalent. Further it would be obvious to include such a delay element in the apparatus of Hall, for example in place of mirror 220 in Figure 6), for the reasons stated above.

As to claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13 and 14, the placement of a delay element is arbitrary and it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to place such a delay at any point within an interferometer configuration for the reasons as stated above.

As to claim 6, Hall teaches a Genzel arrangement interferometer (see Figure 1).

As to claim 12, Hall teaches a Genzel Mach Zehnder arrangement interferometer (see Figure 6).

As to claim 9, while Hall does not teach a Genzel Michelson interferometer arrangement specifically, such interferometric arrangements are notoriously well known in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to include such an arrangement in the apparatus of Hall.


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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrick J Connolly whose telephone number is 703.305.4397. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 am-5.30 pm ... Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank G. Font can be reached on 703.308.4881. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703.746.7722 for regular communications and 703.746.7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703.308.0956.

pjc
March 6, 2003



Samuel A. Turner
Primary Examiner